

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York was held on Monday, May 19, 2008 at the Municipal Building, Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

The following officials were present:

Mayor Schmidt	Trustee Brennan
Trustee Konig	Trustee Gallelli
Trustee Olver	Treasurer/ Acting Manager Zambrano
Attorney Staudt	

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:00p.m. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the vouchers as follows; the motion was seconded by Trustee Gallelli and approved unanimously.

General Fund	\$64,503.70
Water Fund	\$342,000.67
Sewer	-
Capital Fund	\$51,976.00
Trust Fund	\$7,968.85
Total	\$466,449.22

Mayor Schmidt advised that Demetra Tseckares-Restucci has expressed interest in serving on the Visual Environment Board and would like to appoint her to this Board.

3. ANNUAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REPORT

Acting Village Manager Zambrano stated that to be in compliance with the Federal Regulations for Storm Water Management the Village is required to present at a public

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meeting a Storm Water Management Program Annual Report. Mr. Zambrano advised that Village Engineer, Dan O'Connor, and Superintendent of Public Works, Marco Gennarelli, will do the annual presentation.

Mr. O'Connor highlighted some of the activities the Village is doing to comply with the requirements of the DEC Permit for the Phase II Compliance Program. Mr. O'Connor stated that this permit deals with improving the water quality that is being discharged into the Croton and Hudson Rivers.

- Public Outreach and Education - provide Storm Water information to the public through various means, i.e., bulletin board, web-site, newsletters, work with Westchester County to develop public information documents, make residents aware of the Westchester County Household Clean-Up Days and their Mobile Shredder
- Public Involvement and Participation - annual public meetings
- Illicit Discharge and Detection - program to keep storm water in the storm water system and the sanitary in the sanitary system
- Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control - work with contractors/property owners to provide materials that will capture sediment on the site; install drywells, infiltrators, ponds when necessary
- Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping - street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, catch basin markers
- Collection of Material - Village collects trash, white good, metal, air-conditioners
- Most of the Village is served by the Sanitary Sewer System. Northern parts of the Village are on septic systems and these homeowners are advised that septic systems need to be cleaned on a regular basis.
- Legislative Improvements made by the Village - Sediment Erosion Control, working on Steep Slope and Fill and Excavation Legislation
- Village uses the DEC Design Manual for construction and post construction
- Village holds an annual Village-wide clean-up day

Marco Gennarelli updated the public on DPW practices.

- Pick-up of curb-side waste
- Street cleaning, catch basin cleaning, street and bridge maintenance, stream clean-up, removal of storm sewer blockages, litter basket pick-up, and park clean-up,
- Employee pollution prevention, hazardous materials and spill response training annually
- DPW staff attend seminars by various agencies
- Indoor salt storage
- Utilize the EPA and DEC Best Management Practices
- Keep all battery storage indoors, recycle 100% of the DPW's anti-freeze and engine oil and frequently sweep yard

Mayor Schmidt thanked Dan O'Connor and Marco Gennarelli for their reports.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Resolution from the Hendrick Hudson Board of Education regarding Environmental Findings on the proposed renovation of school buildings and fields

b. Letter from the Ad Hoc Dog Committee dated May 13, 2008 submitting recommendations for the proposed unleashed dog area at Black Rock Park

c. Letter from Andrew Karp dated May 15, 2008 regarding the proposed Dog Run at Black Rock Park

Mayor Schmidt said that no decision has been made and asked that letters be passed on to the Recreation Advisory Committee for their review.

Trustee Gallelli said that she attended the Recreation Advisory Committee meeting last Tuesday and both sides were well represented. Trustee Gallelli said that the Recreation Advisory Committee does not meet in the summer months and is concerned with the summer approaching that this issue not be left floating around and that we make some decision before the summer is upon us.

Mayor Schmidt advised that the Recreation Advisory Committee has scheduled a special meeting to discuss this. Mayor Schmidt stated that he has also asked the staff and Committee to relay this issue to Village Counsel for their opinion and to the Village Insurance Company for their comments as well.

Trustee Gallelli asked when the meeting will be held so that those interested can attend.

Mayor Schmidt said that he thought this was going to be a closed meeting so that the Committee can discuss it and come up with their recommendations.

Trustee Gallelli said she believes that all meetings of all Committees are open to the public regardless of whether they are allowed to speak or not and residents should be able to listen to the discussion. Trustee Gallelli stated that if we are going to emphasize open government, committee meetings should be open to the public.

Acting Village Manager Zambrano said that he does not have the date but as soon as he does he will let everyone know.

Trustee Konig said that it is her impression that the Recreation Advisory Committee is going to respond to everyone involved and would like to check with Sue Snyder to make sure when the date is and if it will be an open meeting.

Trustee Brennan said that if anyone wants to attend the meeting they should be able to do so.

5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - AGENDA ITEMS

Nick Fusco stated that Susan Snyder made it clear at the last meeting that the Recreation Advisory Committee was intending to have a closed session but he would like to be permitted to attend the meeting.

Andrew Karp, 20 Quaker Bridge Road, thanked the Board for taking the time and energy to seriously consider this. Mr. Karp asked that the Board investigate all options and is willing to assist the Board in coming up with solutions.

Ty West, 22 Lexington Drive, advised that five letters in opposition of the park have been received and the concerns were noise, additional lighting, cost of improvements, increased traffic and dog waste. Mr. West said that the hours of operation will be from dawn to dusk and open only during the posted hours; the only area that you will see traffic is from the park entrance to 129 and a dog waste station will be installed. Mr. West said that monitoring of the River is currently happening and the Village will know immediately if there is a problem. Mr. West said that this is only a trial period and we will know very quickly if this is not going to work.

Holly Santana, 50 Farrington Road, said that she finds the options in the Village very limited for walking your dog even on a leash. Ms. Santana said that dog owners in the Village are extremely conscientious about their dogs and does not think there will be an issue of dog waste.

Resident from 51 Farrington Road said that he supports his neighbor and has found that dog runs tend to be cleaner than the streets themselves.

Ms. Murtaugh, 6 Michaels Lane, said that there are many places in the Village that you can go to fish or to walk without being exposed to dogs. Ms. Murtaugh said that she is asking that one park, that is by all accounts totally under utilized, be allowed to have dogs. Ms. Murtaugh said that this is a trial period, and if there are any problems, the Board could shut it down at any moment. Ms. Murtaugh said that this was a much more active park many years ago and when you purchase property that adjoins a park, you have to understand that people are entitled to go in and out and use it.

Daniel Shure- 28 River Lane, said that he has seen the utilization of the park change over the years and the Village has also made improvements to it over the years. Mr. Shure said that it is a nice quiet oasis for people to enjoy and does not think that it is compatible with a dog park. Mr. Shure said that, speaking from a dog owner's perspective, there can be times when dogs will not respond to their owners when called and there is nothing that could prevent a dog from running into the road.

Mayor Schmidt thanked everyone for attending and asked everyone to keep sending in their comments as the Board has not come to a decision; we are awaiting comments from the Village's legal counsel and insurance company and will put all these comments together and come up with a decision.

6. RESOLUTIONS

a. On motion of TRUSTEE BRENNAN seconded by TRUSTEE OLVER, the following resolution was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, Sportswear bid proposals were opened on May 8 2008 and five companies submitted bids; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent of Recreation Susan Snyder, after making a comparison of unit prices for the approximate minimum amount they will order for each item, has recommended that the contract be awarded to Printwear, Inc., for all items; and

WHEREAS, the Village has ordered from Printwear, Inc. in the past and has been satisfied with their quality and customer service,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to award the contract for sportswear to Printwear, Inc., of Mamaroneck, NY, at a price of \$6,803.60,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the amount of \$6,803.60 be charged to the following accounts:

A7180.4200	\$442.80
A7310.4200	\$2,461.20
A7020.4200	\$126.000
A7140.4200	\$3,773.60

b. On motion of TRUSTEE BRENNAN seconded by TRUSTEE KONIG, the following resolution was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, Public Sector HR Consultants LLC has been hired by the Village to provide a workplace risk evaluation, training and education, and a written workplace violence prevention program; and

WHEREAS, Public Sector HR Consultants LLC has provided the Village with a proposal for the development of an employee handbook for the Village; and

WHEREAS, this handbook would be more comprehensive than the one currently utilized by the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village has been satisfied with the level of service provided from Public Sector HR Consultants LLC,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to sign the proposal from Public Sector HR Consultants LLC for the development of an employee handbook for the Village at a cost of \$6,000.

c. On motion of TRUSTEE KONIG seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI, the following resolution was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Village's medical and dental programs for its employees has a provision where domestic partners can also be covered; and

WHEREAS, in order to participate in these programs the New York State Department of Civil Service and First Ameritus require authorization from the Village Board of Trustees,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees hereby elects to extend eligibility for coverage to the domestic partners of its employees effective January 1, 2008.

Acting Village Manager Zambrano read the following resolution introduced by Trustee Gallelli:

WHEREAS, the Harmon Development Committee was formed in 2007 to study and propose recommendations for the revitalization and redevelopment of the commercially-zoned areas in the Harmon section of the Village, and

WHEREAS, the committee has proposed that their scope of effort be expanded to include other commercially-zoned areas in the Village, and

WHEREAS, the recent closing of Wondrous Things in the Upper Village area raises concern about the economic sustainability of this commercial area of the Village,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board requests the Harmon Economic Development Committee to expand their scope of effort to include the Municipal Place and Upper Village commercial areas of the Village and that this effort will include an examination of zoning laws, parking constraints and regulations

affecting these areas, financial analyses, and a retail feasibility study to determine its marketability.

Trustee Gallelli said that the lateness of this resolution was due to the untimely closing of Wondrous Things. Trustee Gallelli said that she and Trustee Olver feel that this step can get a process going and at the same time does not commit the Village to any particular expenditures of money at this time. Trustee Gallelli said that this is an appropriate step to move ahead with their concern about the sustainability of the various commercial areas of the Village.

Trustee Brennan said that this may be a good thing but would like to have more time to study this and respectfully asked that this be tabled so that they can review it more closely.

Trustee Konig said that if we are going to charge one of our committees with a task, she would prefer to bring it to a work session first. Trustee Konig said that she knows that the people on the Harmon Business Committee have worked very hard in that area and we have just financed a study to see if their recommendations will fly in that area.

Trustee Olver stated that there is an economic downturn that is affecting all of the communities up and down the river and elsewhere in our country. Trustee Olver said that this economic downturn is putting pressure on businesses and it is something that we locally can do nothing about. Trustee Olver said that what we can do is to re-examine how we support or fail to support businesses and to take necessary action to assure that we have the best possible business environment in these hard times. Trustee Olver said that he hopes that the steps proposed in this resolution would be first steps toward a more aggressive leadership in the area of economic redevelopment on behalf of our municipal government.

Mayor Schmidt said that the Village is already doing this; one of the studies that is currently being funded is to look at the economic viability of the entire Village and not just the Harmon area and this was a recommendation from our Consultants. Mayor Schmidt said that one of his concerns is that he made a recommendation to appoint a couple of people to the Harmon Development Committee and they were turned down by the committee chairperson and the committee. Mayor Schmidt said that he is not certain that this is the right committee to be looking at this if the committee does not have an open mind to listen to other people. Mayor Schmidt said that the Village has stepped up to the plate; there is a lot more going on in terms of keeping the Village clean so that we present the Village well to the outside world. Mayor Schmidt stated that if we want these businesses to survive, our community has to support them and the property owners need to upgrade their property to the point that it looks financially viable for someone to come and rent that space. Mayor Schmidt said that he is going to call for a meeting of the Village Board, Code Enforcement, Engineering Department and our Judicial System to look at Code Enforcement throughout the Village because, if buildings are not being maintained, you do not have a viable downtown.

Trustee Konig said that Summerfest is a great way for everyone to explore the businesses throughout Croton.

Trustee Brennan said that he questions the role of government getting involved with one store closing but rather letting the free market forces do its job and not step in right away. Trustee Brennan said that we should give it some time to see what may go in there in its place.

Trustee Gallelli said it is not about Wondrous Things but it is about the sustainability of Croton's commercial areas and believes that the work done so far by this committee is exactly what needs to be done for the other areas and urged everyone to support this.

Trustee Olver stated that we have done a lot and gives credit to the very aggressive street cleaning program and code enforcement actions that the Mayor has taken. Trustee Olver said that these are new times and new challenges for small businesses and we must see what we can do to make this the best possible environment and make our government the best possible partner for business so that the free market can operate fully. Trustee Olver said we all need to rethink what we have done thus far because we are facing an increasing negative environment.

Trustee Brennan said that we do not need another economic committee but rather, we should be looking at our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning. Trustee Brennan said that he has said it for years that we need to look at the Comprehensive Plan and the restrictive zoning that we have put in some areas and this can be done on our own without another committee.

Trustee Olver said that taking a comprehensive approach is exactly what he thinks is necessary and agrees. Trustee Olver said that the Village has their work cut out in zoning, amortization and tax incentives so that we make sure that we are giving the right deal to our citizens and our businesses.

Trustee Gallelli said that this committee would review the recommendations and proposals in the Comprehensive Plan and while the committee does not make the decisions, they would do the background work and make recommendations to the Board.

Trustee Olver stated that the Board needs the help in winnowing through the masses of material and recommendations that have been put forward in voluminous fashion that would lead the Board to the ten or fifteen things that we can examine that might make the most difference and having people with greater expertise may be the right way to go.

Mayor Schmidt said that we currently have two consultants working on this, with one consultant looking at the proposed zoning changes that the committee recommended specifically for the Harmon area. Mayor Schmidt said that the bigger question is the viability of the business district in Croton and this is the Planning Study that will look at what businesses we can attract. Mayor Schmidt said that the other question is do we have too much commercial space in Croton for economic viability. Mayor Schmidt said that



having the committee look at another area before we've gotten information back from the first area is like spinning our wheels. Mayor Schmidt said that he would like to put this off to a work session and have the committee come in and speak with the Board.

Trustee Gallelli said that she did not agree with putting it off to a work session; there is nothing in the resolution that commits the Village to any real action or expense, it is just a jump start to begin to look at the things that need to be looked at like any other market or retail feasibility study.

Mayor Schmidt said that he attended a seminar where they spoke about bringing "all the right people to the table" and that is a critical thing and if we have a committee that is not open to allowing other people in, then there is a problem. Mayor Schmidt said that we do need creative people at this time who are willing to step in and look at a problem in a very different way than how we are currently looking at it.

Resolution tabled to the next work session.

7. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Kieran Murray, 20 Arlington Drive and current Chair of the Harmon Development Committee said that they have a very professional committee and they are ready, willing and able to help. Mr. Murray said that he was completely shocked a few Board meetings ago when two people were appointed to the committee. Mr. Murray said that he did not have any information about these two people and the committee does have a need for certain specialties in the upcoming phases of this project such as a marketing consultant and commercial real-estate agent. Mr. Murray said that the committee is not trying to be exclusionary and the reason for questioning the appointment is because the committee had no understanding of the professional backgrounds or expertise of the candidates. Mr. Murray said that the committee does not want to duplicate skills they already have or skills that do not apply because it will make it more difficult for the committee to reach a consensus on this very difficult topic. Mr. Murray said that the committee is at a point where they will be finishing and being able to recommend some very exciting zoning and use changes and will be providing property owners in the area with some very valuable data.

Mayor Schmidt said that it is important that we get as many people to the table in this process as possible and turning away people under the guise of their skills, raises some concerns. Mayor Schmidt said that the committee is doing a great job but we need to look at the big picture.

Carl Grimm, 5 Cook Lane, said that he would like to propose that the Village Board adopt the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement which supports the Kuoto Protocol to help reduce global warming.

Kevin Davis, 17 Wolf Road, said that he is happy that the Village and the Town are discussing sharing Recreational Services.

Maria Cudequest, 84 Grand Street, said that she heard that three people have been inquiring about the space vacated by Wondrous Things. Ms. Cudequest said that the Village should not over-react; in the ten years that she has been in the Village, that location has been the scene of many businesses.

Cornelia Cotton, 111 Grand Street, urged the Board to please consider Carl Grimm's challenge that our Village add its name to many other Villages and cities throughout the United States as signatures to the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement; it would be a good thing to do to show that we are committing ourselves to the principals that are laid out in that treaty. Ms. Cotton also addressed some issues with respect to the uncleanness of the Croton-Harmon Train Station.

#### 8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the Public Hearing on the Budget held on Monday, April 14, 2008. Trustee Konig seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the Regular Meeting held on Monday, May 5, 2008. Trustee Konig seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the Executive Session held on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 10:15am. Trustee Olver seconded the motion. The following Board members approved the motion: Mayor Schmidt, Trustee Brennan, Trustee Olver, and Trustee Gallelli. Trustee Konig abstained.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on Monday, May 12, 2008 at 9:15am. Trustee Konig seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

#### 9. REPORTS

Acting Village Manager, Zambrano, reported that the St. Augustine 5K Race is set for June 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Zambrano advised that tax bills will be mailed next Friday. Mr. Zambrano advised that the Board is planning to hold a Public Hearing late September/early October regarding the Verizon Franchise Agreement.

Trustee Konig reminded everyone that Summerfest is June 1<sup>st</sup> and encouraged everyone to come out. Trustee Konig advised that the plantings at Mayo's Landing went very well and thanked the volunteers for their hard work.

Trustee Olver congratulated and thanked everyone who participated in planting at Mayo's Landing. Trustee Olver said that this Board works as a free marketplace of ideas and that we do come together and move forward as a team and while some may want to move more quickly than others, we will discuss the issues and we will come to an

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agreement. Trustee Olver said that there is no need to rethink the way that we do business; our Democracy has stood the test for over 200 years; it works and let us not try to fix something that is working fine.

Trustee Gallelli said that the plantings at Mayo's Landing was a wonderful volunteer cooperative effort between the Town, Village and the DEC, with well over 40 people planting over 300 plants and shrubs. Trustee Gallelli reminded everyone that the Croton Veterans Organization will be holding Memorial Day Services at Veterans Corner at 11:00am and encouraged everyone to attend. Trustee Gallelli said that the closing of Wondrous Things is a loss to the Village and wished them the best. Trustee Gallelli reminded everyone of the school budget vote and the Symphony Knoll Senior Housing Project groundbreaking.

Trustee Brennan reminded everyone to attend the Memorial Day Services and also encouraged everyone to continue to support our local High School teams.

Mayor Schmidt responded to Ms. Cotton's concern regarding the condition of Metro North. Mayor Schmidt said that garbage is picked up weekly at the Croton-Harmon Station and it is much cleaner than it has been in a long time but we need to continue to get after Metro North more and ask them to do their part in cleaning more regularly especially since the station is the gateway to our Village with over 2000 cars parking there every day.

Mayor Schmidt said that he will be attending the Symphony Knoll Senior Housing Groundbreaking and is very proud of the work that the Croton community has done in the realm of affordable housing.

Mayor Schmidt stated that Summerfest is always his favorite event and urged the community to come out and support the local businesses and community groups.

Mayor Schmidt said that he is pleased to announce that the Memorial Plot has been cleaned and prepared for the Memorial Day Services and thanked the staff for getting this done.

Mayor Schmidt said that we will all miss Wondrous Things, but transition happens, businesses come and go but we still have a lot of successful businesses in Croton. Mayor Schmidt said that we are beginning to see a transition in Croton on the types of businesses that are coming in and assured everyone that the Board is working very aggressively on this issue. Mayor Schmidt said that we should also set up a dialogue with the businesses in our community so that the community can share what it is they like and do not like and encourage them to step up to the plate and be better business owners. Mayor Schmidt added that maintenance of the exterior of our commercial sites is a very important part and we will be looking at code enforcement. Mayor Schmidt said that we are a changing community and we are moving forward and good things are coming to Croton.

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A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters was made by Trustee Brennan and seconded by Trustee Konig. The motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further comments to come before the Board, a motion to close the meeting at 10:30pm was made by Trustee Gallelli and seconded by Trustee Brennan. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pauline DiSanto, Village Clerk